

REMARKS

With the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-14 and 16-28 are pending in the application. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to address the objection in the Office Action and by incorporating the allowable subject matter from Claim 15. Claim 1 has also been amended to place it in typical U.S. patent claim format. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Claim 15 has been cancelled without prejudice in view of the incorporation of its subject matter within Claim 1. Claim 20 has been amended in view of the amendment to Claim 1. Claim 22 has been amended like Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter from Claim 15. No new matter has been added. Claim 27 has been amended in view of the amendments to Claim 1.

Turning to the Office Action, Claim 1 stands objected to because of the use of the word "Conned." In line with the helpful suggestion of the examiner, this typographical error has been corrected to replace the incorrect word with the proper word "formed." Applicants thank the examiner for this suggestion.

Claims 1-14, 18, 19 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Eliachar (U.S. Patent 4,794,924). Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Eliachar in view of Marten (U.S. Patent 4,795,465). Although applicants do not agree with these rejections, the claims have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from Claim 15 into each of the independent claims in this case. As a result, applicants submit that the rejections are now moot.

Turning to page 4 of the Office Action, applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 15, 20 and 27-28.

MONNIER et al
Appl. No. 10/511,846
August 2, 2006

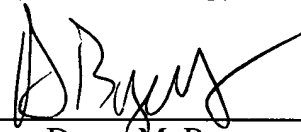
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the examiner has any questions concerning this case, the undersigned may be contacted at 703-816-4009.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Duane M. Byers
Reg. No. 33,363

DMB:lfo
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100